

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 6-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3 and 7 are amended, Claim 1 is canceled by the present amendment, and Claim 5 was previously canceled.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,473,396 to Kumar; Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, and Claims 4, 6 and 9-12 were allowed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, to place this application in condition for allowance, Claims 2 and 3 are each amended to recite the features of Claim 1 (which is accordingly canceled) and to be in independent form. Further, Claim 7 is amended to depend on Claim 2.

Thus, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 2 and 3 and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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